94 2821

SD
11
.R8

National Forests

F L O R I D A

National Forests in Florida

General Report to the Public for FY 1992

Property of
National FS Library
USDA Forest Service
240 W Prospect Rd
Fort Collins CO 80526

National Forests

F L O R I D A

Table of Contents

About Your National Forests in Florida **2**

To Our Friends **3**

Managing Your Natural Forest Resources and **4**

Improving Recreational Opportunities 4

Providing Recreational Trails 6

Protecting Wilderness 7

Saving Wild & Scenic Rivers 7

Exploring Past Cultures 8

Purchasing Land 9

Prescribing Needed Fire & Fighting Wildfires 10

Monitoring the Forests' Soil, Water, & Air 11

Overseeing Wise Use of the Forests' Minerals 12

Caring for Fish & Wildlife 12

Working with Rare & Endangered Species 13

Growing Trees for Our Future Use 14

Furnishing Forage 14

Offering Jobs & Training 15

Maintaining Facilities & Travel Ways 16

A Summary of Work on Our Forest Plan & Monitoring Efforts **17**

A Look at Our Timber Program **19**

Appendix A — Actual Accomplishments Compared with Forest Plan Objectives 22

Appendix B — Expenditures and Receipts to U.S. Treasury; 25 Percent Payments to Counties **23**

Learn More **24**

About Your National Forests in Florida...

Offices:

Supervisor's Office
Donna L. Hepp
Acting Forest Supervisor
227 N. Bronough Street
Suite 4061
Tallahassee, FL 32301
904/681-7265

Ocala National Forest
Seminole Ranger District
Ranger Jim Thorsen
40929 State Road 19
Umatilla, FL 32784
904/669-3153

Lake George Ranger District
Ranger Jerry Clutts
17147 East Highway 40
Silver Springs, FL 34488
904/625-2520

Osceola National Forest
Osceola Ranger District
Ranger Keith Lawrence
U.S. Highway 90
P.O. Box 70
Olustee, FL 32072
904/752-2577

Apalachicola National Forest
Wakulla Ranger District
Ranger Ron Smith
U.S. Highway 319
Route 6, Box 7860
Crawfordville, FL 32327
904/926-3561

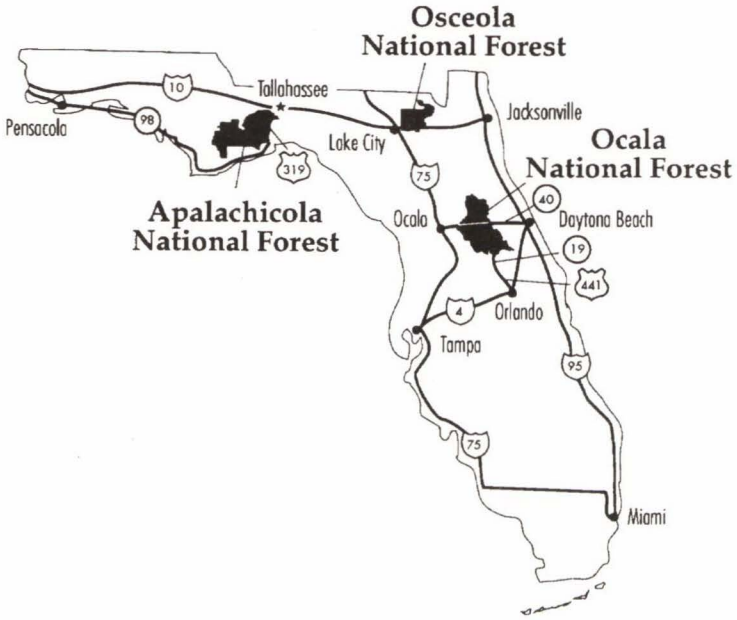
Apalachicola Ranger District
Ranger Andrew Colaninno
Florida Highway 20
P.O. Box 579
Bristol, FL 32321
904/643-2282

Florida's three national forests, the Ocala, Osceola, and Apalachicola, contain 1,135,306 acres. More than three million people enjoyed these public lands and the 36,000 acres of lakes and ponds found there during fiscal year (FY) 1992.

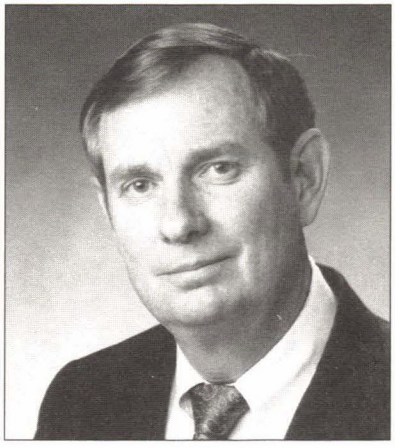
The 383,166-acre Ocala National Forest contains many valuable ecosystems. In two of these, the sand pine scrub and longleaf pine-turkey oak systems, visitors can find the endangered scrub jay, bald eagle, and indigo snake. Gray squirrels, white-tailed deer, quail, and rabbits can also be seen and hunted. Virtually pristine, cypress-lined rivers can provide Ocala visitors with a relaxing canoe adventure or the Southern feeling experienced by those who used these lands years ago. Established in 1908, the Ocala's diverse landscapes, wildlife populations, and year-round subtropical climate attract people today as it did centuries ago.

Created in 1931, the Osceola was a 161,813-acre property that had been heavily logged and not replanted. Today, this forest contains 186,955 acres of enchanting waterways, tranquil woodlands, and a multitude of recreational opportunities. More than 20 miles of hiking trails, 7 recreation areas, and 300 species of wildlife await the Osceola visitor.

President Roosevelt established the Apalachicola National Forest in 1936. As Florida's largest national forest, which contains 563,986 acres, visitors will find the special longleaf/wiregrass ecosystem harboring rare plants and animals. The forest staff applies a wide array of management strategies to protect and enhance these unique natural resources while also producing wood products that add to our nation's well-being. Special emphasis is given to managing habitat for the world's largest red-cockaded woodpecker population and maintaining leadership in the application of prescribed burning. Foresters use prescribed burning to maintain native ecosystems and achieve a variety of resource goals.



To Our Friends...



Steve Fitch, Forest Supervisor

Dear Forest Friends:

While much that happened in Florida during 1992 will be overshadowed by the Hurricane Andrew calamity, I would like to use that disastrous week to brag a little about our Forest Service employees and illustrate the significance of some of their accomplishments you will find in this report.

Monday, August 24, found many South Floridians dazed and staggering from the effects of one of the worst natural disasters in this nation's history.

Within hours National Forest Service employees were initiating our participation in relief efforts. Less than 48 hours later our people were in Miami (300 miles from the nearest national forest) hard at work organizing the unloading and delivery process for a mountain of supplies for the needy. In support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's response plan, employees later cut through tangles of downed trees to open and operate a shelter housing emergency personnel from rural fire departments that came to assist in the area. At the same time other National Forests in Florida employees were responding to a different kind of disaster 2,000 miles away, fighting wildfires in the mountains above Boise, Idaho.

Meanwhile, back home in central and north Florida, the peak season was under way and Forest Service employees' schedules were full with tasks like cleaning campgrounds, installing woodpecker nesting cavities, preparing timber sales, and restoring firelines. These duties—and hundreds of other daily functions needed to care for these lands and serve our visiting public—continued without fail despite a significant redeployment of personnel to other locations. These tasks could not have been completed without extra effort by some really fine, dedicated employees, volunteers, and partners around the State.

It seems remarkable that we met or exceeded every target and goal in fiscal year 1992. I think you will find equally significant the changes that were taking place during this time to improve forest ecosystem management and fulfill the goals and themes of the Resource Planning Act.

As I move on to a new assignment on the west coast, I want to thank you for all your support these past few years. Forest Supervisors will come and go. Your interest and willingness to help us improve our management is what keeps Florida and its national forests special.

Sincerely,

Steve Fitch
Forest Supervisor

Managing Your National Forest Resources and . . .

Improving Recreational Opportunities

A recreation visitor day is any combination of people and hours equaling 12.

An estimated 9.3 million people enjoyed the Sunshine State's national forests in FY 1992. The forests provided more than 3.1 million recreation visitor days (7 percent increase over FY 1991) at 34 campgrounds; 19 picnic areas; 38 boat landings; 7 wilderness areas; and on more than 360 miles of designated horse, hiking, and biking trails.

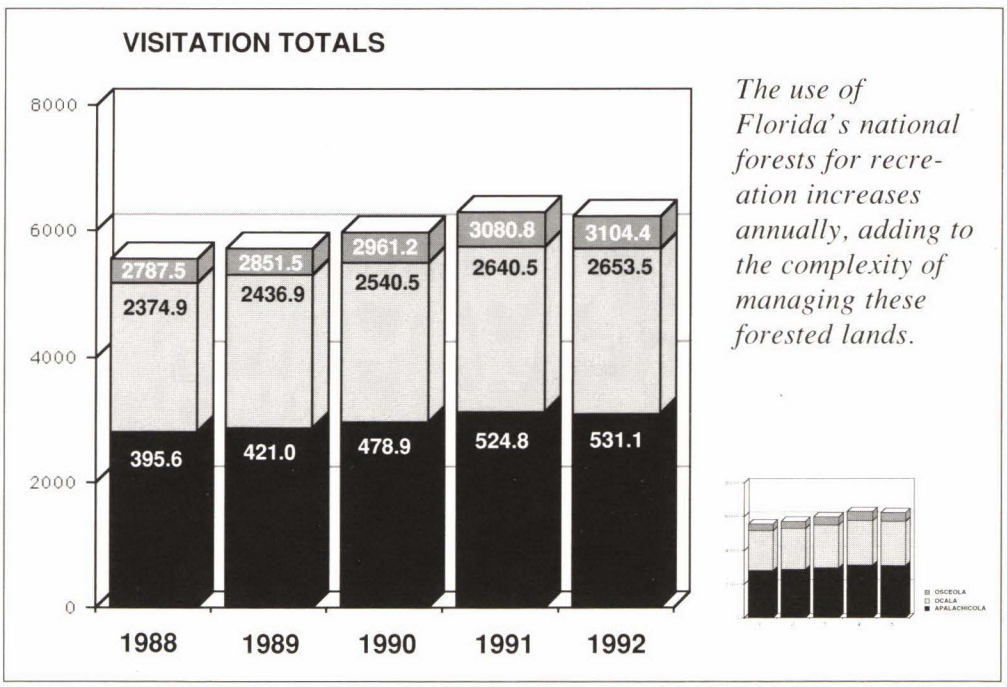
For FY 1992, initial funding under the President's America's Great Outdoors program allowed the National Forests in Florida to plan for, and in some cases complete, new or reconstructed recreational facilities to better meet the needs of persons with disabilities and improve visitor services by reducing the backlog of outdated or deteriorated facilities.

On the Apalachicola National Forest, funding enabled recreation employees to initiate plans for: two new toilets and a picnic shelter, improved campsites, and a better beach and swimming area at the Wright Lake Campground. At Lost Lake, the Forest Service completed renovations of the main swimming area and beach.

Continued improvements to the Apalachicola's Leon Sinks Geological Area resulted in easier to follow trails and much improved directional signing. Water and electrical utilities were also brought to Leon Sinks, weekend visitor informational services were established, and a host now lives near the area's parking lot for security and maintenance purposes. Plans are to complete public toilet and trailhead facilities at Leon Sinks in FY 1993.

Osceola National Forest employees improved Hog Pen Campground by constructing a chemical-flush toilet that is accessible to persons with disabilities.

National Forests in Florida's landscape architects and engineers created a master plan for improve-



The use of Florida's national forests for recreation increases annually, adding to the complexity of managing these forested lands.

ments at the Ocala National Forest's Salt Springs Recreation Area. Landscape architects also completed renovation plans for Juniper Wayside, a popular day-use area along State Highway 19. Contractors have already started to repave the roads and parking areas.

Recreation opportunities at Wildcat Lake, a popular day-use area in the Ocala National Forest's Big Scrub, improved when contractors finished beach, swimming, and boat launch improvements.

Doe Lake Dining Hall, a 1939 Civilian Conservation Corps structure on the Ocala National Forest, is being restored to its original specifications—even the original 1939 stain formula is being used. Donations from a coalition of seven groups assembled by the Seminole District Ranger and Forest Service funds, resulting from a challenge cost-share agreement, netted more than $187,000 for this project in FY 1992.

A challenge cost-share agreement enables the Forest Service and a partner to jointly finance and accomplish a project benefiting the Forest Service.

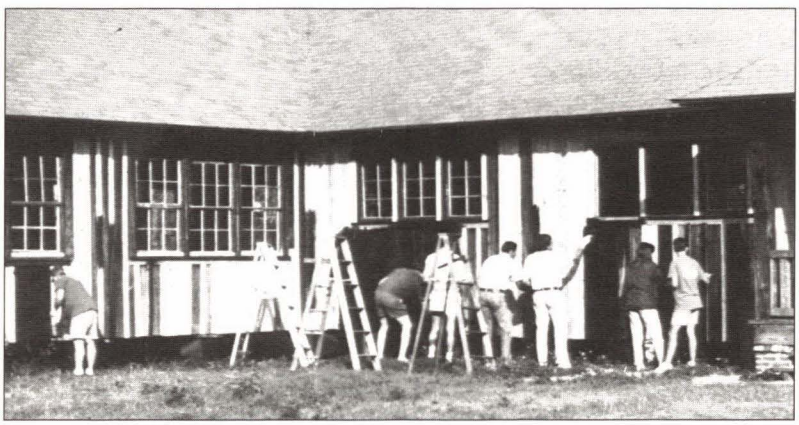


Photo by R. Willis

During a volunteer day, people from around Florida helped the Forest Service work toward restoring the Doe Lake Dining Hall on the Ocala National Forest.

Photo by T. Tenold

At the Apalachicola National Forest's popular Silver Lake Recreation Area, the Forest Service received funds to start plans for the construction of a new bathhouse.

Providing Recreational Trails

The Federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991, a new Federal program just now being implemented, holds a lot of potential for financing improvements to existing national forest trails and the creation of new, needed trails.

— Mark Warren
Recreation Staff Officer

A change in emphasis by the Forest Service to place more focus on improving existing trails resulted in the National Forests in Florida completing more trail maintenance in FY 1992 than specified in the *Land & Resource Management Plan for the National Forests in Florida* (forest plan). Better maintained trails minimize the environmental impacts on Florida's unique ecosystems.

Each year the National Forests in Florida receives more and more requests for all types of trail facilities. Deciding if, when, and where to fill these requests can be a challenge. A new Federal program, which provides funds for walking trails, will help the National Forests in Florida meet established goals and future trail needs.

The National Forests in Florida completed two projects with one of its Florida National Scenic Trail (FNST) partners in FY 1992. The Florida Trail Association (FTA) and Forest Service jointly purchased trail maintenance equipment worth $2,500 for use by volunteers who maintain the FNST. In addition, the Forest Service and FTA signed a challenge cost-share agreement that will improve FNST mapping and identify critical areas where the trail needs to be linked.

With help from more than 10 individuals participating in the privately administered Volunteer Vacations program, approximately 20 miles of the FNST were reblazed, re-signed, and cleared for use on the Apalachicola National Forest.

On the Apalachicola, recreation planners and volunteers initiated a feasibility study aimed at deciding whether an equestrian facility and trail system should be established; study results are expected in FY 1993.

Hikers can experience the National Forests in Florida's diverse ecosystems on more than 155 miles of the Florida National Scenic Trail.

Managers of the Osceola National Forest started construction on a new historic trail—The Trampled Track—at Olustee Beach and teamed up with local equestrian groups to establish almost 40 miles of horse trails.

Another challenge cost-share project on the Ocala National Forest resulted in the creation of the new 10-mile St. Francis Trail. Made possible with assistance from the Florida Trail Association and National Forests in Florida Interpretive Association, this trail explores the paths of yesteryear and travels through six ecosystems.

Protecting Wilderness

Protecting wilderness—natural areas free of development or evidence of human manipulation—is central to the Forest Service's mission of caring for the land. This is emphasized in the forest plan's management goal to provide for wilderness experience opportunities by protecting the resources, quality, and character of wilderness areas.

FY 1992 was a very active period for Forest Service specialists charged with carrying through on that goal. In the past year they:

- completed environmental assessments to allow prescribed burning in Big Gum Swamp and Billies Bay Wildernesses. In FY 1992, successful prescribed burns covered 3,000 acres in Big Gum and 1,500 acres in Bradwell Bay.
- wrote a Wilderness Education Plan for the National Forests in Florida—the first such plan for the Forest Service's Southern Region.
- began re-evaluating RARE II areas to study their wilderness potential—part of the forest plan revision process. Clear Lake on the Apalachicola and Natural Area and Pinhook Swamp on the Osceola are under consideration for wilderness status.
- developed wilderness implementation schedules, as part of the forest plan revision effort, in the form of 5-year action plans, for each of the seven designated wildernesses on the national forests. This establishes priority action items and will help in developing wilderness budget requests.

Saving Wild & Scenic Rivers

Work on the national forests' river program intensified during FY 1992, as Forest Service specialists continued work on the proposal to designate the Sopchoppy River as a Wild & Scenic River and began eligibility studies to designate other rivers.

A biological evaluation was added to complete the draft Environmental Impact Statement and Suitability Study for the Sopchoppy River. The study was submitted for review by the Service's Southern Region and Washington Offices. If these efforts for the Sopchoppy are successful, it will become the first Wild & Scenic River on the National Forests in Florida.

River managers also initiated studies of Juniper and Alexander Springs on the Ocala National Forest and of the New and Ochlockonee Rivers on the Apalachicola. These studies are the first step in establishing these rivers' eligibility, as well as determining their potential wild, recreational, or scenic classification for inclusion in the Wild & Scenic River program.

On the first-ever National Rivers Clean-up Day, held in early spring, National Forests in Florida employees worked with volunteers such as the Boy Scouts to clear debris from six miles of the New River canoe trail.

"Designating the Sopchoppy as a Wild & Scenic River is essentially an effort to protect its special features. If successful, the Forest Service can keep the wild parts in their pristine state and keep the scenic and recreational parts attractive."

— Barbara Cook
Natural Resource Specialist

RARE II areas are Roadless Area Review and Evaluation sites set aside during the 1970's in Forest Service efforts to identify lands suitable for the wilderness system.

Exploring Past Cultures

"A* Passport in Time *project is a volunteer activity set up by the Forest Service to introduce the public to archaeology."

—Andrea Repp
Forest Archaeologist

Partnerships enable the National Forests in Florida to make strides in identifying and cataloging cultural resources.

With the long-term goal of understanding a cultural resource site's historic past in relation to its ecological setting, the three forest archaeologists and their partners recorded 104 new cultural resource sites and surveyed over 18,500 acres.

Through a challenge cost-share agreement, University of Florida Professors Garcia and Shepard began documenting historic structures on the Osceola National Forest. The study, scheduled for completion in 1993, will enable these professors to provide the Forest Service with recommendations for the care of historic structures they identify.

To increase public knowledge of and participation in the science of exploring archaeological sites, forest archaeologists conducted a *Passport in Time* project on the Apalachicola National Forest's Langston House Historic Site. The information gathered will be used to increase public understand of how life changed in north Florida between the 1830's and 1970's when the site was occupied.

The Forest Service established the Silver Glen Springs Archaeological Advisory Committee to assist with the task of extracting information from the Ocala National Forest's Silver Glen Springs site in the most time and cost-effective manner. Plans are to use this and other information for making Silver Glen Springs an environmental education showcase.

Photo by C.Zajicek

About 100 volunteers braved hot, bug-biting weather to help the Forest Service excavate the Apalachicola National Forest's Langston House Historic Site.

Purchasing Land

One of the greatest achievements during FY 1992 was the purchase of 7,092 acres of lands for the National Forest System. The largest acquisition—6,511 acres in Pinhook Swamp—could not have been accomplished without The Nature Conservancy's assistance. Black bears, endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers, woodstorks, and perhaps someday Florida panthers will benefit from this public purchase.

To celebrate this significant Pinhook purchase, The Nature Conservancy and Forest Service joined hands to celebrate with a dedication ceremony. Florida's Governor Chiles, Congressman Peterson, Florida Department of Environmental Regulation Secretary Carol Browner, and a host of other dignitaries were on hand to recognize the importance of this effort.

In addition to acquisition, Forest Service lands specialists increased the size of the Apalachicola and Ocala National Forests by 377 acres with two land exchanges.

Dr. Ellie Whitney donated 20 acres to the Apalachicola National Forest through the Trust for Public Lands. The Presbyterian Church of Florida also donated land to the Apalachicola National Forest.

"Outright land donations to the Forest Service are rare, and it is notable that there were two such events last year alone."
— Clarence Krause
Forester

Photo by K. Westly

Once the entire 60,000-acre watery expanse of Pinhook Swamp is publicly acquired, it will create a vital link between the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge in Georgia and the Osceola National Forest.

Prescribing Needed Fire & Fighting Wildfire

"The presence of fire is essential to the continuation of the forest ecosystem—many plants and animals thrive in the conditions that follow a fire. Wildfire is no longer compatible with our complex society. Prescribed fire is a vital tool for ecosystem management."

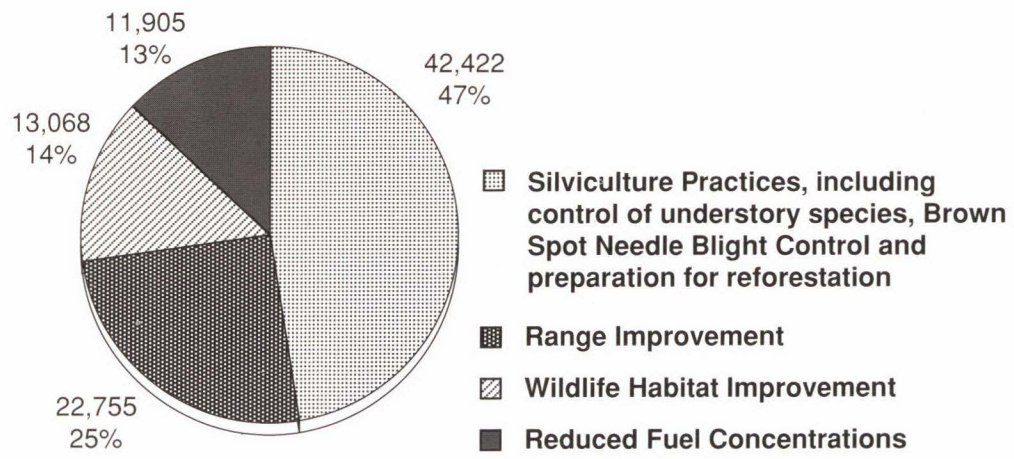
— Whit Lerer
Fire Staff Officer

Fire management's mission is protecting forest resources and other values from destructive wildfires and employing prescribed fire as a method of improving a variety of forest resources. The use of prescribed fire—or good fire—helps meet a number of land management goals and objectives identified in the forest plan.

The forest had an active prescribed fire program in FY 1992. Forest Service employees prescribed burned 90,150 acres to benefit a variety of forest resources. One of the most notable efforts of the year was the prescribed fire on 3,000 acres of the Big Gum Swamp Wilderness. This was the first prescribed fire in Big Gum Swamp since its classification as a wilderness.

In the same time period, 198 wildfires burned a total of 13,100 acres on Florida's national forests. This is an increase of 36 percent above the 10-year average annual number of fires and 255 percent above the average number of acres. These increases are attributed to the current drought cycle, additional fires in wilderness areas, and a change in suppression tactics. Lightning caused 23 percent of the fires and the remaining 77 percent are attributed to human causes such as equipment use, arson, and debris burning.

FISCAL YEAR 1992 PRESCRIBED BURNING



PRESCRIBED BURNING—FY 1988-FY 1992

Objective	FY 1988	FY 1989	FY 1990	FY 1991	FY 1992
Reduce Fuel Concentrations	51,816	32,769	29,691	50,374	42,422
Silvicultural Practices	6,188	9,019	8,172	5,512	11,905
Range Improvement	6,841	6,600	5,980	8,504	13,068
Wildlife Habitat Improvement	37,758	19,328	17,513	16,326	22,755

Prescribed fire is the preplanned and carefully controlled use of fire to accomplish resource objectives such as improving range forage or wildlife habitat.

Monitoring the Forests' Soil, Water, & Air

The health of the National Forests in Florida's water resources offers vital clues to the well-being of the forest ecosystem and the impact of forest management activities. With more than 36,000 acres of lakes and ponds and 410,000 acres of wetlands to choose from, Forest Service scientists and technicians have ample opportunities for study.

In accordance with the forest plan, recent studies have focused on monitoring lake productivity and lake levels for signs of acid precipitation or adverse effects resulting from the management of other forest resources.

Lake levels were monitored on 15 Ocala National Forest lakes to determine how much fluctuation in lake levels is normal. In the face of concerns over declining lake levels, the recent drought in Florida, and increased demand on the Floridan Aquifer, the data derived from these studies may prove increasingly valuable over time.

Forest Service specialists and volunteers continued to monitor lake productivity under a partnership between the Forest Service and the University of Florida's Lakewatch program. Eleven lakes were monitored for the program in FY 1992. The results continue to show that lakes on the national forest have varying productivity levels.

Additionally, a survey of aquatic macrophytes was conducted on Mill Dam Lake. The plant specimens found—most commonly maidencane, spatterdock, and banana lily—are beneficial to wildlife.

The air-soil scientist installed four vegetative monitoring plots in the Big Gum Swamp on the Osceola National Forest. Data taken from these plots and those installed last year near the Bradwell Bay Wilderness on the Apalachicola National Forest will determine the effect of ozone on specific plant types. In this study, scientists will be examining plants known to be sensitive to ozone as an indicator of the air quality in the test area. They will also be working to identify more plants found on this forest that respond to the presence of ozone pollutants.

"Overall, the results of the Lakewatch program indicate that water quality in the study area is good and does not suffer any ill effects of acid precipitation or from forest management activities in the surrounding forest."

— Will Ebaugh
Hydrologist

Photo by B. Waite

Water quality monitoring of national forest activities will help ensure protection of Florida's unique wetlands.

"Providing a broader range of seasons for fire is an important management activity. Summer fires enhance native vegetative cover. This ecosystem evolved primarily with growing season fires."

— Don Bethancourt
Wildlife Staff Officer

Overseeing Wise Use of the Forests' Minerals

Interest in competitive bidding for oil and gas parcels on Florida's National Forests continues to be very low. The Forest Service worked with the Bureau of Land Management, which administers national forest competitive sales, in putting 97 parcels (62,413 acres) on the Apalachicola National Forest up for bid in FY 1992—but no bids were received. Also, there has been no change in the past year in the number of existing oil and gas leases or total acreage under lease. This probably reflects an inability to recover deposits cost-effectively in those areas not already under lease.

The Forest Service continues to receive revenues from limestone sale royalties from a lease on the Withlacoochee State Forest near Brooksville. Although the Florida Division of Forestry manages this State Forest, the Forest Service retained the mineral rights when the land was sold to the State in 1958. Revenues from this lease amounted to $233,206 in FY 1992.

Caring for Fish & Wildlife

Florida's national forest managers have increasingly emphasized ecosystem management over the past several years. The main focus in the fish and wildlife program—as in other resource areas—is to allocate budget dollars and personnel to projects that improve the health of the whole ecosystem as opposed to concentrating on the needs of individual species.

An example of this shift can be seen in the way prescribed fires are used to improve wildlife habitat. Among the primary beneficiaries of a prescribed fire program are threatened and endangered animals that rely on

Prescribed burning is a valuable management technique for improving wildlife habitat. More importantly, it supplies a link in the ecosystem chain crucial to the overall health of the forest.

fire-dependent plants for survival. While prescribed fire has traditionally been employed in the winter months, the National Forests in Florida has recently allotted wildlife funds to prescribed burning during other seasons.

Traditional game animals found in these national forests—deer, turkey, quail, bears, and many smaller species —benefit just as threatened and endangered species do from the increased diversity and new growth these fires generate.

In addition to the prescribed fire program, other significant wildlife and fisheries projects for FY 1992 included continuing a cooperative effort with Quail Unlimited to improve quail habitat in the Ocala National Forest; establishing a monitoring program for Neotropical migratory birds on the Osceola National Forest as part of the national Partners in Flight program; continuing a cooperative study with the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission on black bear biology; and proceeding in a cooperative effort with the State of Florida to ensure accessibility by rebuilding dilapidated boat ramps.

Working with Rare & Endangered Species

Florida's national forests provide habitat for many species of rare, threatened, and endangered plants and animals, including 50 plants and 62 aquatic and terrestrial animals.

The Apalachicola National Forest supports the country's largest population of red-cockaded woodpeckers and the only population of Harper's beauty, a small wildflower. The Apalachicola National Forest also has the only protected populations of three plants that occur within the forest's savannahs: violet-flowered butterwort, white birds-in-a-nest, and Florida skullcap.

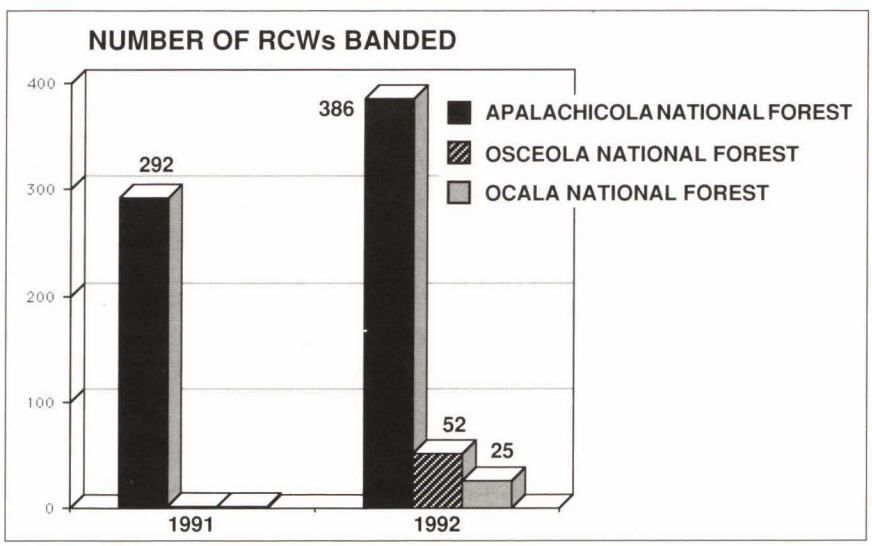
The largest protected habitat area for plants endemic to the scrub ecosystem—such as the Florida bonamia and Lewton's milkwort—is found on the Ocala National Forest.

The vast majority of Florida's two most important natural communities —sand pine scrub and longleaf pine/ wiregrass—has been severely impacted or lost to agriculture, silviculture, or development. Significant amounts, if not most, of what remains of these communities are found on Florida's national forests. National forest managers have maintained these communities largely through aggressive prescribed burning programs.

More than 15,200 acres were burned for rare plant and animal habitat improvement during FY 1992, much of it during the natural fire season from April through August. Thousands more were burned for fuel

The Forest Service is one of several government agencies participating in the Partners in Flight program. This national initiative brings together specialists from diverse disciplines to study the causes for declines in neomigratory tropical bird populations.

Biologists banded 463 red-cockaded woodpeckers on the three national forests and installed 57 artificial cavities and 16 cavity restrictors. Efforts such as these play a vital role in protecting the endangered bird from extinction.



reduction and site preparation during this same period, often improving habitat as well as serving the primary purpose of the burn.

During FY 1992, more than 78,000 acres were inventoried for rare flora and fauna. In addition to extensive study of the red-cockaded woodpecker (see chart below), biologists also erected 67 nest boxes for the Southeastern American kestrel.

Red-cockaded woodpecker foraging habitat analysis was a key project for the year. The National Forests in Florida took the lead in a study undertaken in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to examine the habitat requirements of the red-cockaded woodpecker. The study compared breeding success of bird colonies to current habitat conditions around their nest sites. This work, which involved colony sites on the Apalachicola National Forest, was greatly enhanced by the utilization of a geographic information system (GIS), a recently acquired technology.

In other areas, biologists prepared biological evaluations for 76 forest management projects during the past year. The purpose of these evaluations was to determine the effects of proposed projects on threatened, endangered, and sensitive plants and animals. If a proposed activity was likely to impact these protected species, the biologists prescribe appropriate restrictions for the project being considered.

Thinning means selective tree cutting in a timber stand to increase the remaining trees' growth rate and quality.

Silvicultural Activities	Acres Accomplished	
Silvicultural Exams and Prescriptions	116,038	
Tree Planting:		
Longleaf Pine	4,177	(3,308,184 trees)
Slash Pine	1,326	(1,733,082 trees)
Sand Pine	6	(1,800 trees)
Seeding Sand Pines	4,185	(Approx. 79 million seeds)
Natural Regeneration	1,185	
Fertilizing Trees	2,262	(Approx. 260 tons used)
Thinning Trees	3,296	
Reforestation Preparation	5,641	

Though the number of acres planted with trees declined slightly, the use of natural regeneration increased by 858 acres over FY 1991 figures.

Growing Trees for Our Future Use

The science of managing forests calls for a broad range of activities. Site preparation, fertilization, thinning or selection, harvest, reforestation—all happen simultaneously in the forest life cycle. The adjacent chart provides information on the scale of silvicultural activities in the National Forests in Florida during FY 1992.

Furnishing Forage

Livestock grazing occurs on the Osceola and part of the Apalachicola National Forest. On these forests, about 1,740 head of cattle grazed the national forest forage during the past year.

The National Forests in Florida range forage and fee-permit grazing system is a fairly stable program with some decline in use and number of permittees during the past several years. Low levels of grazing use has minimal adverse effects while providing some local economic benefits.

Offering Jobs & Training

During FY 1992, the National Forests in Florida continued its commitment to several human resource programs designed to benefit the Forest Service, the communities they serve, and—most importantly—those individuals who participate. These programs serve a wide range of people, ranging from youth to senior citizens to volunteers of every ethnic background.

In the College Work Study program, a hosted program offered in cooperation with area schools, 35 participants worked alongside Forest Service employees and performed a variety of tasks. Their contributions during FY 1992 were valued at $142,553.

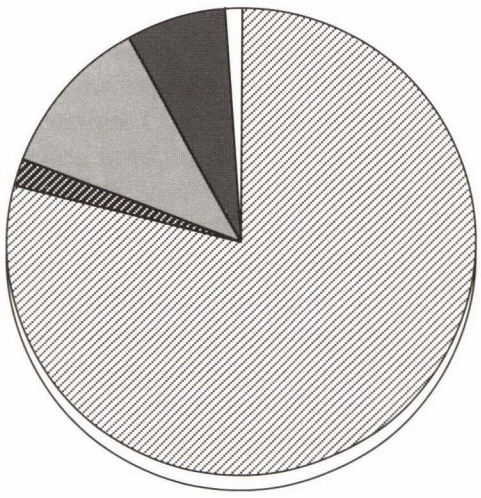
Through the Youth Conservation Corps program, six teenagers gained work experience and performed various work services valued at $23,529.

The 171 participants of the Senior Community Service Employment Program put their skills to work both in Forest Service offices and out on the ground. From clerical support to building wildlife platforms, they contributed to many Forest Service projects, providing services valued at $1,323,603.

In the volunteer program, more than 1,200 volunteers contributed work valued at $471,094. Numerous people donated their time and energy to varied causes: maintaining campgrounds, restoring historic structures, planting trees, helping to conduct fishing derbies, and sponsoring county fairs. Their unpaid efforts are calculated to have a value of $471,094.

Through the Touch America Program, the Forest Service and local businesses worked together to provide an opportunity for young people to learn more about natural resources. A total of 124 participants worked on various projects, including construction and trail improvement at the Leon

A "hosted" program is one in which the Forest Service works with an outside agency or group—such as local schools, correctional facilities, or interest groups—to provide opportunities for service to the National Forest System.



PROGRAM	PARTICIPANTS
Volunteers	1,202
College Work Study/Hosted	35
Senior Community Service Employment Program	171
Touch America Project	124
Youth Conservation Corps	6
TOTAL	**1538**

More than $1,981,470 worth of work was accomplished by the 1,538 participants involved in human resource programs during FY 1992.

"We know people are a valuable part of the Forest Service mission. Therefore, we strive to provide paid and volunteer work opportunities for youth who are pursuing a career, for those who have chosen a career, and for our elders who have completed a career but still want to make a contribution."

— Bettie McGuire
Administrative Staff

Sinks Geological Area, reconstruction of a major boardwalk at the Trout Pond universally-accessible recreation area, and re-establishment of the Vinzant Equestrian Riding Trail.

In addition to these formally structured programs, the Apalachicola Ranger District hosted the State's third Natural Resources Career Camp. During the event, 22 high school students were introduced to Forest Service career opportunities on the National Forests in Florida.

The Cooperative Education Program provided high school and college students an opportunity to gain valuable work experience by supporting the forest's administrative, recreation, and public affairs staff units. For these students, this work-study program can result in employment with the Forest Service after graduation.

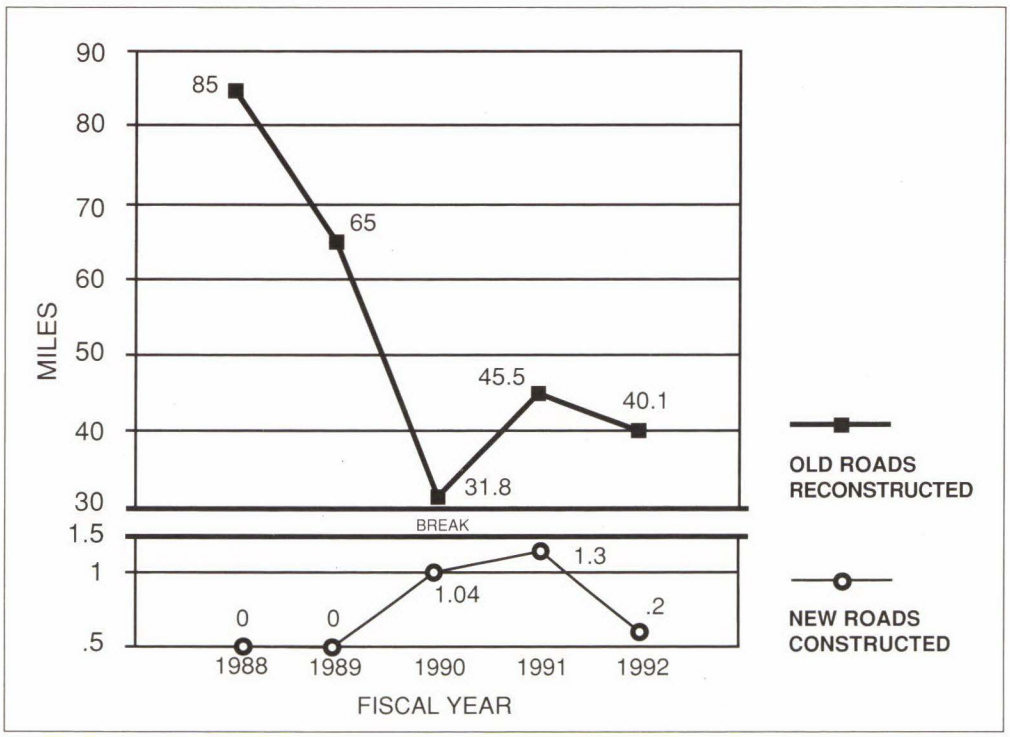
Maintaining Facilities & Travel Ways

The National Forests in Florida's engineering group completed a myriad of projects during the past year—pollution investigation and abatement activities were a priority. Eight sites of either small residential oil spills or old dump sites were located on the forests. Cleanup of these sites was initiated or finished in FY 1992.

Major safety and public health inspections were completed for all facilities. Inspections were also accomplished to identify facilities where work is needed to make them accessible to those with disabilities.

Forest engineers worked on a number of facilities not often seen or consciously considered. Drinking and waste water treatment facilities, electrical systems, and low standard roads were designed or received repairs as a result of the engineering group's work.

The reconstruction of roads includes improving, restoring, or relocating an existing road.



Road reconstruction activities on the National Forests in Florida are generally declining as a result of an emphasis on other forest resources. Construction of new roads continues to be almost nonexistent.

A Summary of Work on Our Forest Plan & Monitoring Efforts. . .

Each year Forest Service personnel throughout the Southern Region carefully assess how goals established in forest plans are being met. Forest plans stipulate specific objectives, standards, and guidelines for the integrated management of all a forest's resources over a 10-year time span.

A review of management activities carried out on the National Forests of Florida from October 1, 1991, through September 30, 1992—FY 1992—shows that most of the forests' objectives have been achieved at the levels expected when the current plan was originally drafted in 1986.

In some situations, however, monitoring results can reveal a measurable difference between conditions anticipated by the plan and actual conditions on the ground. This was the case during the past year when a significant difference between current and planned or prior year results became apparent in the following program areas:

- **Trail construction, reconstruction, and maintenance**—In FY 1992, a change in policy for financing trail projects resulted in an increased emphasis on maintenance of existing trails at the expense of new trail construction. Coupled with an overall reduction in trail financing, the net result for the year was a significant reduction in new trail construction and a minor reduction in trail maintenance from the previous year.
- **Cultural resource inventories, surveys, and evaluations**—For FY 1992, a new policy required the completion of cultural resource surveys before completion of project decision notices. Consequently, there was a very large increase in surveys compared to the previous fiscal year and an accompanying decrease in the number of evaluations.
- **Fish and wildlife habitat improvement**—Reduced Knutson/Vandenberg funds resulted in accomplishment levels below those of the previous year.
- **Timber offered, reforestation, and timber stand improvement**—The amount of timber offered for sale decreased significantly from the

Outputs and Accomplishments in the Forest Plan

	Plan Level thru 92	Accomplished thru 1992	Percent Accomplished
Recreation Use	11,755	12,500	106
Cultural Resource Inventories	895,474	138,660	15
Cultural Resource Evaluations	99	35	35
Trail Construction	69	39	57
Trail Maintenance	1,316	1,430	109
Wilderness Use	310	219	71
T&E Habitat Improvements	84,518	57,575	68
Wildlife Habitat Improvements	100,002	134,449	134
Range Forage Improvements	131,181	55,915	43
Timber Volume Offered	102.4	88.6	87
Reforestation	72,200	73,069	101
Timber Stand Improvements	29,800	29,387	99
Silvicultural Exams	586,210	719,440	123
Soil & Water Inventories	38,500	82,908	215
Watershed Improvements	105	142	135
Soil & Water Improvements	350	365	104
Mineral Leases	1,785	1,075	60
Land Line Location	482	221	46
Land Line Maintenance	679	347	51
Land Acquisition	280	30,517	10,899
Land Exchanges	1,645	6,316	384
Road Construction & Reconstruction	596	359	60
Fuel Management	320,912	356,803	111

The total accomplishments for the period FY 1986 through FY 1992 expressed as a percentage of the total level called for in the forest plan.

previous year in order to comply with provisions of a recent forest plan amendment designed to protect the red-cockaded woodpecker

• **Road construction and reconstruction**—A smaller timber harvest program reduced the need for road construction and reconstruction projects. At the same time, a change in the mix of timber products being offered for sale reduced the amount of money available for road construction and reconstruction. The result was a construction and reconstruction program somewhat below the previous year's and significantly below the forest plan level.

• **Land line maintenance, location of property boundaries, and land purchases and exchanges**—Funding levels for land line maintenance and locating property boundaries remained low—although somewhat higher than the previous year. As a result, accomplishments remained below the forest plan level. Conversely, funding for land purchases and exchanges remained high and accomplishments were considerably above the forest plan level.

Because of the time span involved and changing forest needs or conditions, it is typical for a forest plan to require some adjustment as it is put to use. The National Forests in Florida plan was amended during FY 1992 to provide for human-ignited, prescribed fire in the Ocala National Forest's Billies Bay Wilderness.

A second change to the plan—a significant amendment initiated in 1990 to resolve issues raised in two appeals of the plan—was canceled. Instead, in July the Forest Service began a revision of the forest plan. This substitution was made to avoid the confusion of having one major process—a revision—tread on the heels of another—the significant amendment. The original forest plan called for revision to begin during FY 1993.

To begin the revision process, the public was invited to identify issues and suggest alternatives for resolving them. At the same time, Forest Service personnel have been working to develop a hierarchical ecological classification system—a significant new, science-based management tool—that will become a focal point of the revised plan. Higher levels in the hierarchy were defined during FY 1992. Classification and inventorying of the lower levels of the hierarchy will be initiated in FY 1993.

Also contributing to the revision process will be a timber products supply and demand analysis that was started during the past year. This analysis will be accomplished using a computer model that will "grow" the available timber supply in our market area into the future This will allow the Forest Service to assess future wood supply conditions and demand on a regional basis.

Another significant project initiated during FY 1992 was a statewide inventory of recreation opportunities being carried out through a challenge cost-share agreement with the Florida Department of Natural Resources. Work on this project is expected to be complete by May 1993.

A Look at Our Timber Program...

The Timber Sale Program Information Reporting System (TSPIRS) is an annual report required of every national forest. It describes the costs, revenues, resource benefits, and effects on local communities that result from timber sale programs carried out on national forest lands.

The TSPIRS report for the National Forests in Florida for FY 1992 consists of three parts: a statement of timber sale revenues and expenses; an economic account; and an employment, income, and program account.

Highlights of the FY 1992 timber sale program included:

- harvesting about 76 million board feet of timber on 9,388 acres;
- selling approximately 74 million board feet of timber products and reconstructing 40 miles of road in support of the sale program;
- having revenues exceed operating expenses by $1,288,000;
- preparing approximately 5,641 acres of cutover land for reforestation and reforesting 10,879 acres;
- improving timber stands on 8,415 acres and fertilizing more than 2,200 acres of young pine plantations;
- distributing $1,364,687 from timber revenues to local governments for road and school programs; and
- generating an estimated 551 jobs, almost $14 million in income for local communities, and almost $2.1 million in Federal income tax.

"The TSPIRS report is available from the Forest Service office in Tallahassee."

—Bob Riser
Forester

L. Kolk

Timber Sale Revenues and Expenses Statement

This statement displays FY 1992 timber program revenues and expenses plus 25 percent payments from timber receipts (called payments to states) made to counties that contain national forest land.

Purchaser road credits are earned by the timber purchaser and applied to the timber sale cost. These credits are earned through construction or reconstruction of specified roads and considered revenues.

REVENUES

Timber Sales	$4,856,739
Purchaser Road Credits	486,322
Associated Charges	59,575
Interest & Penalties	777
Total Revenue	**$5,403,413**

CONTROLLABLE EXPENSES

A. DIRECT EXPENSES

1. *Timber Sale Expenses*

Harvest Administration Costs	$403,789
General Administration—Sales	357,836
Sale Preparation	767,144
Analysis/Documentation	12,004
Other Resource Support	225,649
Co-op Road Maintenance	45,663
Depreciation Expenses, Road Design, and Construction	
Surface	385,707
Culverts	33,011
Bridges	12,294
Purchaser Road Design Credits (Depreciation Expenses)	
Surface	434,686
Culverts	28,517

Co-op road maintenance is work needed as a result of the timber purchasers' use of forest roads. It is financed with funds deposited by timber purchasers.

2. *Timber Program Expenses*

Timber Planning	12,694
Transportation Planning	11,740
Silvicultural Examinations	310,811
Genetic Tree Improvements	10,997
Appropriated Reforestation	75,998
KV Reforestation	110,969
Appropriated Stand Improvement	26,901
KV Stand Improvement	8,004
Facilities Depreciation	1,137

Silvicultural examinations consist of gathering on site field data to determine timber management directions.

B. INDIRECT EXPENSES

1. *Timber Program Expenses*

General Administration—Program	288,544

KV reforestation is funded from timber receipts as authorized by the Knutson-Vandenberg (KV) Act.

TOTAL TIMBER EXPENSES	**$3,564,095**
PAYMENTS TO STATES	**$1,364,687**
VOLUME HARVESTED—million board feet (MMBF)	**75.7**
VOLUME UNDER CONTRACT (Sept. 30) MMBF	**92.2**

Timber Program's Economic Account

The economic account provides an estimate of future benefits and costs associated with the current year's harvest. Also displayed are the positive effects anticipated for recreation and wildlife due to the timber management program. The analysis resulted in no negative economic effects for recreation and wildlife.

PRESENT VALUE OF BENEFITS	
Positive Effects	
Timber	$5,049,000
Recreation	3,000
Wildlife	496,000
Fisheries	0
Grazing	0
Soils	0
Water	0
Total	**$5,548,000**
Negative Effects	
Timber	0
Recreation	0
Wildlife	0
Fisheries	0
Grazing	0
Soils	0
Water	0
Total	**0**
TOTAL PRESENT BENEFITS	**$5,548,000**
PRESENT VALUE OF COSTS	
Timber	$2,696,000
Recreation	0
Wildlife	4,000
Fisheries	0
Grazing	0
Soils	0
Water	0
Roads	1,560,000
Total	**$4,260,000**
PRESENT NET VALUE	**$1,288,000**

Employment, Income, & Program Account

The employment, income, and program account estimates the timber sale program value in terms of local jobs created and income produced. Employment generated by the FY 1992 timber program provided 551 jobs and generated income to local communities of $13,677,000.

Appendix A

Actual Accomplishments Compared with Forest Plan Objectives

Activity	Units	Accomplished FY 1992	Forest Plan FY 1992
Recreation			
Trail Construction and Reconstruction	Miles	6	10
Trail Maintenance	Miles	223	188
Cultural Resources Inventories & Surveys	Acres	33,462	0
Cultural Resource Evaluations	Properties	0	28
Developed Recreation Area Use	RVD *	1,934,000	1,878,900
Wildlife and Fish			
Inland Fish Habitat Improvements	Acres	676	1,152
Nonstructural T&E Habitat Management	Acres	11,408	12,074
Nonstructural Wildlife Habitat Management	Acres	11,513	14,286
Range			
Permitted Grazing Use	AUMs**	28,403	42,000
Range Forage Improvements	Acres	13,068	18,740
Timber			
Silvicultural Examinations	Acres	116,038	83,745
Timber Offered	MMCF***	10.5	15.3
Reforestation	Acres	11,059	10,500
Timber Stand Improvements	Acres	3,225	4,900
Soil, Water, & Air			
Watershed Resource Improvements	Acres	16	15
Soil & Water Improvements	Acres	41	50
Minerals			
Leases & Permits	Cases	211	255
Lands			
Land Line Maintenance	Miles	70	94
Locating Property Boundaries	Miles	31	64
Right-of-Way Acquisition	Cases	1	4
Land Purchases	Acres	7,092	40
Land Exchanges	Acres	377	220
Facilities			
Road Construction	Miles	0	1.5
Road Reconstruction	Miles	43.9	92.3
Protection			
Fuel Management	Acres	41,719	45,849

* Recreation Visitor Day, the equivalent of a 12-hour visit by one person

** Animal Unit Month, the equivalent of one animal for one month

*** Million Cubic Feet

Differences between the actual accomplishments and planned levels specified by the forest plan are attributed primarily to two factors: 1) funding levels being lower than required to obtain the planned level and 2) changes to management practices that resulted in either reduced or increased accomplishments.

Appendix B

Expenditures and Receipts to U.S. Treasury

Activity	Expenditures	Receipts
Recreation	$2,377,508	$ 376,118
Wildlife	851,512	0
Range	176,669	18,885
Timber	3,789,739*	5,458,749*
Soil, Water, & Air	277,118	0
Minerals	66,417	320,961
Lands	375,243	154,139
Facilities	1,836,739	0
Planning	333,363	0
Fire	2,215,868	0
Law Enforcement	689,739	0
General Administration	1,641,227	0
Totals	$14,631,142	$6,328,852

* These figures differ from those in the Timber Program Information Reporting System due to different reporting requirements.

25 Percent Payments to Counties*

Baker	$ 199,914
Columbia	166,460
Franklin	11,581
Lake	183,518
Leon	55,459
Liberty	141,144
Marion	601,258
Okaloosa	706
Putnam	51,536
Santa Rosa	134
Wakulla	91,214
Walton	645
Total	**$1,503,569**

* Payments are 25 percent of forest receipts returned to states. Recommendations are that counties be provided their share based on the amount of national forest land in the counties. Payments are to be used for schools and roads.

Monies received from Land Utilization Projects ($314,575) are not included in the 25 percent payments to counties.

Learn More. . .

PLANS—You may obtain additional information about the National Forests in Florida's Land and Resource Management Plan (forest plan) or any project, by contacting the forest supervisor's office or the appropriate district ranger office. Refer to the addresses listed in the front of this report.

INFORMATION—Use this sheet to request brochures and learn more about *your* National Forests in Florida. Make checks payable to the USDA Forest Service.

- ❑ Apalachicola National Forest visitor map, $2
- ❑ Osceola National Forest visitor map, $2
- ❑ Ocala National Forest visitor map, $2
- ❑ National Forests in Florida canoe map, $1
- ❑ A Guide to Your National Forests, free
- ❑ Leon Sinks Geological Area, Apalachicola National Forest, free
- ❑ Munson Hills Off-Road Bike Trail, Apalachicola National Forest, free
- ❑ Red-cockaded Woodpeckers of the Osceola National Forest, free

The following publications can be purchased from the National Forests in Florida Interpretive Association, which assists the forest with visitor information services. Make checks payable to the Ocala Interpretive Association.

- ❑ Off-Road Vehicle Use on the Ocala National Forest, free
- ❑ Ocala National Forest Camping Policy, free
- ❑ Ocala Trail Map, $2
- ❑ Ocala Forest Times newspaper, $.25
- ❑ Lake Eaton Sinkhole trail guide, $.25
- ❑ Birds of the Ocala National Forest, $.25
- ❑ Alexander Springs camping guide, $.15
- ❑ Juniper Springs camping guide, $.15
- ❑ Mill Dam recreation area, $.15
- ❑ Fore Lake recreation area, $.15
- ❑ Salt Springs camping guide, $.15

"The Osceola National Forest's award-winning natural resource education activities plus the services provided by the nonprofit interpretive association on the Ocala National Forest contribute greatly to the Forest Service's efforts to keep the public informed."

—Chris Zajicek
Public Affairs Specialist

Copy this page and fold. If your order requires payment, please include a check or money order for the correct amount and send in an envelope to the address below.

Forest Supervisor
National Forests in Florida
227 N Bronough Street Suite 4061
Tallahassee FL 32301

Affix
First Class
Postage
Stamp

Forest Supervisor
National Forests in Florida
227 N Bronough Street Suite 4061
Tallahassee FL 32301

We Need Your Comments

With your involvement our national forests can be managed effectively.

We welcome and look forward to receiving your comments on any management aspect of the National Forests in Florida.

If you wish to receive information about specific management activities or the forest plan, please contact the forest supervisor's office or one of the five district offices listed on page 2 of this report.

Printed on recycled paper containing at least 10 percent post-consumer waste.

USDA policy prohibits discrimination because of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or handicapping condition. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any USDA-related activity should immediately contact the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250.

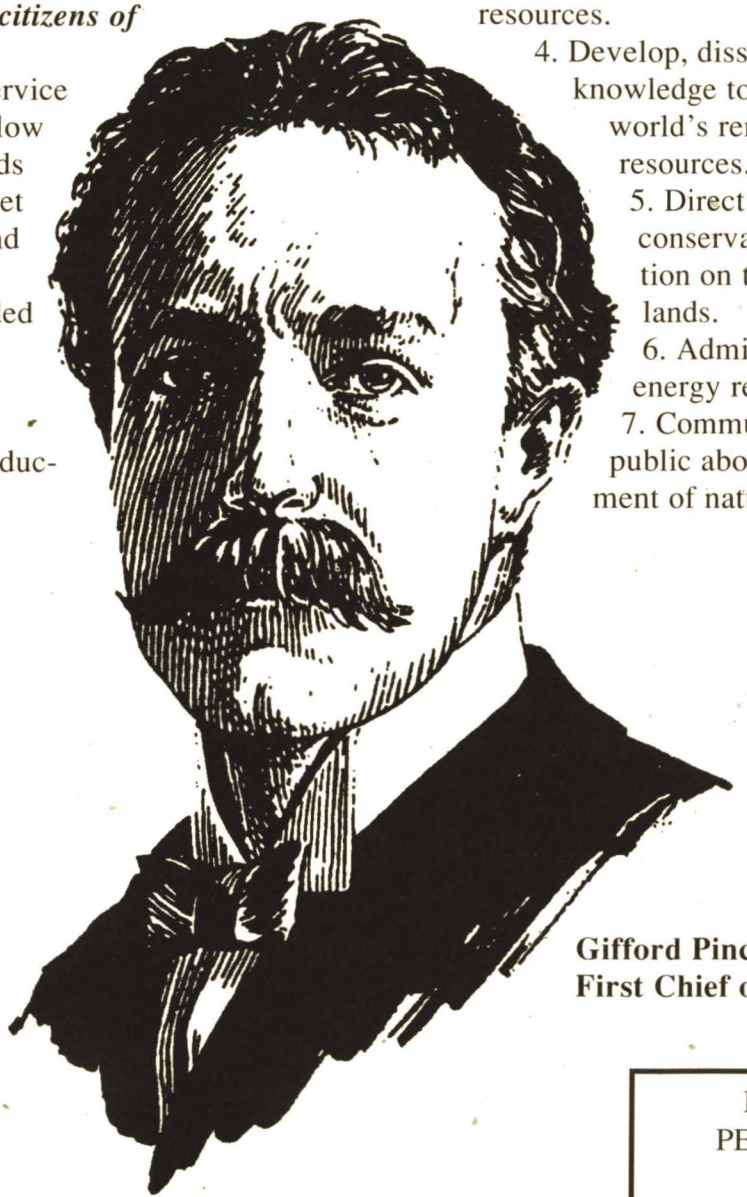
L. Kolk

USDA Forest Service's Mission

Established in 1897, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service was created by a congressional act ***"to improve and protect the forest within the boundries or for the purpose of securing favorable conditions of water flows, and to furnish a continuous supply of timber for the use and necessities of the citizens of the United States . . ."***

Today the Forest Service provides a continuing flow of natural resource goods and services to help meet the needs of national and international communities. The agency is guided by seven objectives:

1. Make renewable resources of the National Forest System fully productive to provide a sustained flow of outdoor recreation, forage, wood, water, fish, wildlife, and wilderness.
2. Provide opportunities for human development and work programs.
3. Assist private forest landowners to improve, protect, and use forest rangeland resources.
4. Develop, disseminate, and use knowledge to enhance the world's renewable natural resources.
5. Direct a program of conservation and utilization on the national grasslands.
6. Administer mineral and energy resources.
7. Communicate with the public about the management of natural resources.



Gifford Pinchot
First Chief of the Forest Service

BULK RATE
PERMIT & FEES
PAID
National Forests in Florida
Permit No. G-40